

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended)** A device control apparatus that controls a plurality of devices, said device control apparatus comprising:
 - a specification association table obtainment unit operable to obtain a specification association table in which the plurality of devices a device and a specification of each of the devicedevices are associated with each other;
 - a use situation association table obtainment unit operable to obtain a use situation association table in which a device the devices and a use situation of each of the devicedevices are associated with each other;
 - an application obtainment unit operable to obtain an application program in which a device to be controlled is described by an abstract name;
 - a condition definition table obtainment unit operable to obtain a condition definition table in which conditions that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name are defined, the conditions being a specification-related condition and a use situation-related condition;
 - a specification-conforming device identification unit operable to identify, by referring to the condition definition table, the specification-related condition that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name described in the application program, and to identify, by referring to the specification association table, the device with each of the devices having the specification which conforms to the identified specification-related condition;
 - a use situation-conforming device identification unit operable to identify, by referring to

the condition definition table, the use situation-related condition that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name described in the application program, and to identify, by referring to the use situation association table, ~~the device with each of the devices having~~ the use situation which conforms to the identified use situation-related condition;

a device identification unit operable to identify, based on each of the devices identified by said specification-conforming device identification unit and each of the devices identified by said use situation-conforming device identification unit, the device to be controlled, wherein the device to be controlled is a device identified by both of the specification-conforming device identification unit and the use situation-conforming device identification unit; and

a device control unit operable to control, based on the application program, the device to be controlled that is identified by said specification-conforming device identification unit and which is also identified by said use situation-conforming device identification unit device identification unit,

wherein the identification performed by the specification-conforming device identification unit of each of the devices having the specification which conforms to the identified specification-related condition is carried out independently from the identification performed by the use situation-conforming device identification unit of each of the devices having the use situation which conforms to the identified use situation-related condition,

wherein, for each of the devices, the use situation of the device includes a physical location and a time, and

wherein, for each of the devices, the specification of the device includes a functional

specification of the device, and at least one of a shape, a size, a mass, a color, and a use environment condition.

2. (Original) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the abstract name is a generic name of a device that can carry out a specific role.

3. (Currently Amended) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein, a setwherein a combination of the device with the abstract name and a command
to the device is described in the application program.

4. (Original) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising
a change unit operable to change details in the condition definition table.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the use situation of the device includes a location at which the device is present,
and a time at which the device is present.

7. (Currently Amended) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the use situation of the device includes a location at which the device is used by a

user, and a time at which the device is used by the user.

8. (Original) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the use situation of the device includes any one of a past record of the use situation, a current use situation, and a prediction for the use situation.

9. (Original) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein a plurality of conditions that should be satisfied by the device are defined, for a single device, in the condition definition table, the conditions being specification-related conditions and use situation-related conditions.

10. (Original) The device control apparatus according to Claim 9,

wherein a priority relation among the plurality of conditions is defined in the condition definition table.

11. (Currently Amended) The device control apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein a plurality of users can share any of a part and a whole of the condition definition table.

12. (Currently Amended) A device control method for controlling a plurality of

devices, said device control method comprising:

a specification association table obtainment step of obtaining a specification association table in which a device the plurality of devices and a specification of each of the device devices are associated with each other;

a use situation association table obtainment step of obtaining a use situation association table in which a device the devices and a use situation of each of the device devices are associated with each other;

an application obtainment step of obtaining an application program in which a device to be controlled is described by an abstract name;

a condition definition table obtainment step of obtaining a condition definition table in which conditions that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name are defined, the conditions being a specification-related condition and a use situation-related condition;

a specification-conforming device identification step of identifying, by referring to the condition definition table, the specification-related condition that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name described in the application program, and of identifying, by referring to the specification association table, the device with each of the devices having the specification which conforms to the identified specification-related condition;

a use situation-conforming device identification step of identifying, by referring to the condition definition table, the use situation-related condition that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name described in the application program, and of identifying, by referring to the use situation association table, the device with each of the devices having the use situation which conforms to the identified condition;

a device identification step of identifying, based on each of the devices identified in said specification-conforming device identification step and each of the devices identified in said use situation-conforming device identification step, the device to be controlled, wherein the device to be controlled is a device identified in both of said specification-conforming device identification step and said use situation-conforming device identification step; and

a device control step of controlling, based on the application program, the device to be controlled that is identified in said specification-conforming device identification step and which is also identified in said use situation-conforming device identification step device identification step,

wherein the identifying performed in said specification-conforming device identification step of each of the devices having the specification which conforms to the identified specification-related condition is carried out independently from the identifying performed in said use situation-conforming device identification step of each of the devices having the use situation which conforms to the identified use situation-related condition,

wherein, for each of the devices, the use situation of the device includes a physical location and a time, and

wherein, for each of the devices, the specification of the device includes a functional specification of the device, and at least one of a shape, a size, a mass, a color, and a use environment condition.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which a program for controlling a plurality of devices is recorded, the program causing a computer to execute a method comprising:

an application obtainment step of obtaining an application program in which a device to be controlled is described by an abstract name;

a condition definition table obtainment step of obtaining a condition definition table in which conditions that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name are defined, the conditions being a specification-related condition and a use situation-related condition;

a specification-conforming device identification step of identifying a device each of the plurality of devices which conforms to the specification-related condition that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name described in the application program;

a use situation-conforming device identification step of identifying a device each of the plurality of devices which conforms to the use situation-related condition that should be satisfied by the device with the abstract name described in the application program;

a device identification step of identifying, based on each of the devices identified in said specification-conforming device identification step and each of the devices identified in said use situation-conforming device identification step, the device to be controlled, wherein the device to be controlled is a device identified in both of said specification-conforming device identification step and said use situation-conforming device identification step; and

a device control step of controlling, based on the application program, the device to be controlled that is identified in said specification-conforming device identification step and which

~~is also identified in said use situation conforming device identification step~~ device identification step

wherein the identifying performed in said specification-conforming device identification step of each of the devices having the specification which conforms to the identified specification-related condition is carried out independently from the identifying performed in said use situation-conforming device identification step of each of the devices having the use situation which conforms to the identified use situation-related condition,

wherein, for each of the devices, the use situation of the device includes a physical location and a time, and

wherein, for each of the devices, the specification of the device includes a functional specification of the device, and at least one of a shape, a size, a mass, a color, and a use environment condition.